10/627,589 <u>PATENT</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

KUSLICH ET AL.

Examiner:

UNKNOWN

Serial No.:

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Title:

LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 6, 2004.

By: Judith les

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice to File Missing Parts on Nonprovisional Application mailed November 6, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Please amend the title to read: <u>LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL</u> <u>METHOD</u>

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 7 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.